Radial Artery Puncture Skill Sheet	Possible Points	Points Awarded
Sets up equipment.	3	
Uses body substance isolation precautions.	2	
Places padding under the wrist to maintain extension.	1	
Draws 1-2 ml of heparinized saline solution into syringe.*	1	
Ejects heparin solution leaving only enough to coat syringe barrel and needle.*	1	
Performs modified Allen's test to verify adequate blood flow in ulnar artery.	5	
Prepares site with antiseptic solution.	3	
Isolates pulsation of radial artery between index and middle fingers of non-dominant hand.	3	
Performs arterial puncture: -Punctures the skin between the index and middle fingers over the radial artery. (1 point) -Directs the needle at a 60-90 degree angle to the skin and aims toward the pulsation. (1 point) -Allows syringe plunger to rise with arterial pressure. (1 point) -If no blood flow is obtained, withdraws needle slowly to obtain sample. (1 point) -If necessary, redirects needle only after it has been retracted to a position just deep to the dermis. (1 point) -Collects a sample of at least 3 ml.* (1 point)	6	
Withdraws the needle and applies pressure to the site for a minimum of 5 minutes (10-15 for patients on anticoagulant therapy.)	5	
Inverts syringe and taps the barrel to expel any air bubbles.	4	
Caps needle tip with protective cover.	3	
Places sample on ice.	2	
Dresses puncture site with sterile dressing.	1	
TOTAL SCORE	40	

*Not required if using a prepackaged sampling syringe containing powdered heparin.

Critical Criteria

_____ Failure to obtain arterial sample within 6 minutes.
_____ Failure to take body substance isolation precautions prior to venipuncture.
_____ Contaminates equipment or site without appropriately correcting the situation.
_____ Any improper technique resulting in the potential for air embolism or arterial laceration.
_____ Failure to perform or correctly interpret results of the modified Allen's test.
_____ Failure to successfully obtain arterial sample within 3 attempts during the 6 minute time limit.
_____ Failure to provide appropriate pressure of puncture site.
_____ Failure to dispose of sharps in proper container.
_____ Failure to properly expel air from the sample.